

## **What is claimed is:**

**[Claim 1]** 1. A special effect device that utilizes steam to create a simulated fire effect comprising:

a housing that defines an outlet slot and an interior volume;  
a steam emission manifold substantially located within said interior volume and comprising a hollow body, an inlet port for providing steam to an interior space of said hollow body, and an outlet structure for venting steam from said interior space of said hollow body;  
an air modulator for producing a flow of air for altering the position of a steam cloud produced adjacent to said outlet port;  
a lighting system for projecting light onto a steam cloud produced adjacent to said outlet port; and  
a drainage pipe that is capable of conveying condensate from a condensate hole in said housing to a distal location.

**[Claim 2]** 2. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
said housing comprises an air entrainment hole.

**[Claim 3]** 3. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
when said housing is operatively positioned, said air entrainment hole is located at a higher elevation than said condensate hole.

**[Claim 4]** 4. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
said housing comprises an exterior theme surface.

**[Claim 5]** 5. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a theme surface located adjacent to said housing.

**[Claim 6]** 6. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a support located adjacent to said housing and capable of supporting at least one of said drain pipe and said inlet port for said steam emission manifold.

**[Claim 7]** 7. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 6, wherein:  
said support has an exterior theme surface.

**[Claim 8]** 8. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:  
a theme surface located adjacent to said support.

**[Claim 9]** 9. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a hollow support located adjacent to said housing and capable of supporting, within said hollow support, at least one of said drain pipe and a steam pipe that engages said inlet port of said steam emission manifold.

**[Claim 10]** 10. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
an engagement structure for connecting said housing, steam emission manifold, air modulator, and lighting system to a surface.

**[Claim 11]** 11. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a mounting surface that is operatively attached to said housing;  
wherein said air modulator and said lighting system are operatively attached to said mounting surface.

**[Claim 12]** 12. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a bowl-like structure having a peripheral edge;  
wherein said housing, steam emission manifold, air modulator, and lighting system are substantially located within said peripheral edge.

**[Claim 13]** 13. A special effect device that utilizes steam to create a simulated fire effect comprising:

a housing that defines an outlet slot and an interior volume;  
a steam emission manifold substantially located within said interior volume and comprising a hollow body, an inlet port for providing steam to an interior space of said hollow body, and an outlet structure for venting steam from said interior space of said hollow body;  
an air modulator for producing a flow of air for altering the position of a steam cloud produced adjacent to said outlet port;  
a lighting system for projecting light onto a steam cloud produced adjacent to said outlet port;  
a drainage pipe that is capable of conveying condensate from a condensate hole in said housing to a distal location; and  
a mounting surface that is operatively attached to said housing;  
wherein said air modulator and said lighting system are operatively attached to said mounting surface.

**[Claim 14]** 14. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:  
said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side; and  
said mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side and separated from said second housing side by said first housing side.

**[Claim 15]** 15. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:  
said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side; and  
said mounting surface is comprised of a first mounting surface and a second mounting surface that is separated from said first mounting surface;

wherein said first mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side and separated from said second housing side by said first housing side;  
wherein said second mounting surface is located adjacent to said second housing side and separated from said first housing side by said second housing side.

**[Claim 16]** 16. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side;  
said outlet slot having a first point and a second point that is separated from said first point;  
wherein a line extending between said first and second points is not collinear with said outlet slot;  
wherein said line is separated from said second housing side by said first housing side;  
wherein said mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side and separated from said second housing side by said first housing side.

**[Claim 17]** 17. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side;  
said outlet slot having a first point and a second point that is separated from said first point;  
said mounting surface is comprised of a first mounting surface and a second mounting surface that is separated from said first mounting surface;  
wherein a line extending between said first and second points is not collinear with said outlet slot;  
wherein said line is separated from said second housing side by said first housing side;  
wherein said first mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side and separated from said second housing side by said first housing side;  
wherein said second mounting surface is located adjacent to said second housing side and separated from said first housing side by said second housing side.

**[Claim 18]** 18. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side;  
said outlet slot defining a curve with a concave side and a convex side;  
wherein said first housing side being on said concave side of said curve;  
wherein said mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side and separated from said second housing side by said first housing side.

**[Claim 19]** 19. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side;  
said outlet slot defining a curve that has a concave side and a convex side;

wherein said first housing side being on said concave side of said curve;  
wherein said second housing side being on said convex side of said curve;  
wherein said mounting surface is comprised of a first mounting surface and a second mounting surface that is separated from said first mounting surface;  
wherein said first mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side and separated from said second housing side by said first housing side;  
wherein said second mounting surface is located adjacent to said second housing side and separated from said first housing side by said second housing side.

**[Claim 20]** 20. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side;  
wherein said outlet slot substantially encloses an area;  
wherein said first housing side is closer to said area than said second housing side;  
wherein said mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side.

**[Claim 21]** 21. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said outlet slot being defined by a first housing side and a second housing side that is spaced from said first housing side;  
wherein said outlet slot substantially encloses an area;  
wherein said first housing side is closer to said area than said second housing side;  
wherein said mounting surface is comprised of a first mounting surface and a second mounting surface that is separated from said first mounting surface;  
wherein said first mounting surface is located adjacent to said first housing side and separated from said second housing side by said first housing side;  
wherein said second mounting surface is located adjacent to said second housing and separated from said first housing side by said second housing side.

**[Claim 22]** 22. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said housing is substantially cylindrical.

**[Claim 23]** 23. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 22, wherein:

said housing is less than about 12 inches in diameter.

**[Claim 24]** 24. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 22, wherein:

said housing is greater than about 12 inches in diameter.

**[Claim 25]** 25. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a bowl-like structure having a peripheral edge;  
wherein said housing, steam emission manifold, air modulator, and lighting system are substantially located within said peripheral edge.

**[Claim 26]** 26. A special effect device that utilizes steam to create a simulated fire effect comprising:

a housing that defines an outlet slot and an interior volume;  
a steam emission manifold substantially located with said interior volume and comprising a hollow body, an inlet port for providing steam to an interior space of said hollow body, and an outlet structure for venting steam from said interior space of said hollow body;  
an air modulator for producing a flow of air for altering the position of a steam cloud produced adjacent to said outlet port;  
a lighting system for projecting light onto a modulated steam cloud produced adjacent to said outlet port;  
a mounting surface that is operatively attached to said housing;  
a cover structure for, when the special effect device is in operation, preventing a typical target viewer from viewing said housing, steam emission manifold, air modulator, and lighting system;  
wherein at least a portion of said mounting surface is located between said housing and said cover;  
wherein at least one of said air modulator and lighting system is operatively attached to said at least a portion of said mounting surface.

**[Claim 27]** 27. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 26, wherein:

said air modulator and said light system are operatively attached to said at least a portion of said mounting surface.

**[Claim 28]** 28. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 26, wherein:

said mounting surface comprises a first mounting surface and a second mounting surface that is separated from said first mounting surface by said housing;  
wherein said first mounting surface comprises said at least a portion of said mounting surface;  
wherein one of said air modulator and lighting system is operatively attached to said first mounting surface;  
wherein the other of said air modulator and lighting system is operatively attached to said second mounting surface.

**[Claim 29]** 29. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 26, wherein:

said cover structure comprises a bowl-like structure.

**[Claim 30]** 30. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 26, wherein:

said cover structure comprises a scone-cover structure.

**[Claim 31]** 31. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 26, wherein:

said outlet slot is curved.

**[Claim 32]** 32. A special effect device, as claimed in claim 26, further comprising:

a drainage pipe that is capable of conveying condensate from a condensate hole in said housing to a distal location.